

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05329 200650Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-06 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 /059 W
-----110054 200655Z /13
P R 200505Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2768
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USLO RIYADH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JIDDA 5329

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CASC, SA
SUBJECT: CORPORAL PUNISHMENT OF NON-MUSLIMS: CASES OF
JOHN W. WILSON AND FRANK E. CLIFFORD

REF: DHAHRAN 0909

1. TELCONS WITH CONGEN DHAHRAN HAVE ESTABLISHED
THAT CLIFFORD AND WILSON WILL TAKE NO RPT NO FURTHER
ACTION UNTIL MIDWEEK (MOSLIM, I.E. MONDAY OR TUESDAY)
TO HAVE LASHING SENTENCES CARRIED OUT. AMBASSADOR
WILL MAKE FURTHER URGENT PLEA AT HIGH LEVELS OF SAG
TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE, BUT COMBINATION OF VIP VISITS
HAS HIM FULLY OCCUPIED THROUGH 24 JULY.

2. MEANWHILE, AMBASSADOR DISCUSSED GENERAL PROBLEM
OF LASHING WITH MFA UNDER SECRETARY MANSOURI DURING
DINNER AMBASSADOR GAVE 18 JULY FOR VISITING UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE NEWSOM. MANSOURI HAS BEEN GIVEN
COPY OF LETTER AMGASSADOR SENT FONMIN PRINCE SAUD ON
THIS SUBJECT 5 JULY, OUTLINING U.S. VIEWS AND
CONCERNS. HE PROMISES TO LOOK INTO WHOLE MATTER
ON URGENT BASIS.

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3. ANOTHER NEW DEVELOPMENT 19 JULY IS CLIFFORD
TELLING CONSULAR OFFICER DHAHRAN HE DID NOT WANT
FURTHER EMBASSY INTERVENTION BECAUSE WE WERE
COUPLING COMMUTATION OF LASHING PORTION OF SENTENCE
WITH DEPORTATION. CLIFFORD CLAIMS DEPORTATION WOULD
COST HIM SOME SEVEN THOUSAND DOLLARS IN LOST PAY,

CONTRACT COMPLETION BONUS AND R&R LEAVE DUE HIM.

4. COMMENT: WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW IF ORIGINAL COURT JUDGEMENT INCLUDED DEPORTATION (CONGEN DHAHRAN IS CHECKING THIS) WE THINK IT PROBABLY DEPORTATION WOULD FOLLOW COMPLETION OF SENTENCE (THE LASHING) IN ANY CASE, SINCE SAG GENERALLY WILL NOT TOLERATE CONTINUED RESIDENCE OF FOREIGNER WHO HAS BROKEN MORALITY LAWS. HOWEVER, WE HAVE ASKED CONSULAR OFFICER DHAHRAN TO GET SIGNED STATEMENT FROM CLIFFORD (AND WILSON IF HE JOINS CLIFFORD) THAT HE DOES NOT WISH FURTHER EMBASSY INTERVENTION IN HIS CASE AND IS ASKING LASHING BE CARRIED OUT.
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